

CATECHISM OF THE
HISTORY OF ENGLAND,

FROM ITS
EARLIEST PERIOD

TO THE
ACCESSION OF HER PRESENT MAJESTY

VICTORIA:

WRITTEN IN EASY LANGUAGE,

FOR
THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS.

MONTREAL:
PUBLISHED BY R. & A. MILLER,
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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE little Catechism now offered to the Public, is designed to give British Youth a knowledge of the History of their Native Country. It contains a familiar description of the most remarkable events that have occurred from the period when the inhabitants were barbarous and uncultivated, to the present time. The whole is intended to be committed to memory at an early age, as comprising an Epitome of that with which every one should be familiarly acquainted; and forms a very proper Introduction to Piarock's and Simpson's Editions of Goldsmith's History of England.

CATECHISM

OF THE

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Original Inhabitants of Great Britain.

Question. WHENCE is the origin of the first inhabitants of Great Britain?

Answer. Their origin is not to be traced with certainty: the earlier history of this country, as of all others, being extremely *vague* and *romantic*.

Q. What is the general opinion as to the first inhabitants of this island?

A. The most general, and indeed the only probable opinion is, that Britain was peopled at various times from different parts of the continent of Europe; but the precise time when the first settlement took place is unknown.

Q. What is the earliest account of the Britons to which we can give credit?

A. The earliest received account is, that a colony of the subjects of Teutat, King of the Celtæ*, embarking from the coast of France, landed and settled without opposition on the coast of Great Britain.

Q. With what view did the Celtæ settle on the coasts of Great Britain?

A. With the intention of increasing and extending their commerce, to which they were induced and encouraged by their sovereign, who on account of his attachment to the

* The Celtæ were originally from Celtic Gaul which country was situated between the rivers Seine and the Garonne.

Vague, *a.* unsettled, not clearly ascertained.
Romantic, *a.* wild, improbable, fictitious.

commercial interests of the people, was styled *mer-cur* or merchant ; and hence we have the name of merchant.

Q. Who also established themselves in Britain ?

A. The Belgæ, a colony from the province of Bretagne, in the north of France.

Q. What is the origin of the Celtæ and the Belgæ ?

A. They were two branches of the Gauls, who were supposed to have been descended from Gomer, the son of Japhet, youngest son of Noah.

CHAPTER II.

Description of the Ancient Britons.

Q. What is the general character of the Ancient Britons ?

A. They were tall, well proportioned and *robust* ; they stained their bodies with a sea-weed, called woad, which not only defended the *pores* of the skin from the *inclemency* of the weather in winter, but gave them a fierce and *formidable* appearance. They were considered a brave, warlike, and generous people, and they were particularly remarked for their honesty and sincerity.

Q. What was their usual dress ?

A. The dress of the chief persons was a kind of a party coloured plaid, which descended from the waist to the middle of the leg ; but this they must have *imported* ; for it does not appear that they had the least notion of manufacturing their wool.

Q. What was the usual dress of those who held any office of dignity, such as that of chieftain, prince, &c. ?

Robust, *a.* strong, healthy, vigorous.

Pore, *s.* a hole or passage in the skin.

Inclemency, *s.* severity, roughness.

Formidable, *a.* terrible, dreadful, tremendous.

Import, *s.* any thing brought from abroad.

A. They wore, besides the plaid above described, chains of gold round their necks, and the women wore bracelets of the same metal; but the generality of the Ancient Britons had no other covering than the skin of wild beasts, nor any other ornament than a coarse painting of flowers and figures of animals on different parts of their bodies.

Q. Describe the habitations of these Britons?

A. They were a sort of huts, or cottages, sometimes formed of boughs, in the manner of arbours, and sometimes of mud and clay, according to the season of the year, and generally covered with turf.

Q. What were their towns and villages?

A. They consisted of a number of these huts, irregularly placed at small distances from each other, and commonly situated in woods, for the convenience of hunting, the favorite and necessary diversions of the people.

Q. Did the early inhabitants of Britain confine themselves to any particular spot, or did they roam about like the Tartars* of the present time.

A. The Ancient Britons, like the Tartars roamed about from place to place, and formed *encampments* according to the different seasons of the year; in summer they generally inhabited the most fertile vallies, which afforded the greatest plenty of pasture and water for their cattle; in winter they removed to the hilly countries, as drier and more healthy.

*The inhabitants of Tartary, descendants of the ancient Scythians who lived in a wandering state in a wild and extensive country of Asia. Tartary is said to be 4000 miles in length, and 2440 in breadth. It is divided into three parts, *Chinese*, *Russian*, and *Independent Tartary*; *Russian Tartary* comprehends all the northern parts of Asia, sometimes called *Siberia*, but more generally *Asiatic Russia*.

Encampment, s. a field of tents, which are generally formed of canvas stretched upon poles.

Q. What was the usual *diet* of the inhabitants of Britain before the Belgæ settled amongst them ?

A. Milk and the flesh of such animals as they killed in hunting ; their common drink was water ; but when the Belgæ came over from Gaul, they brought with them some knowledge of *agriculture*, and soon taught the inland inhabitants the art of cultivating their land, so as to produce the grain necessary for making that wholesome food which we distinguish by the name of bread.

Q. Who were the inland inhabitants ?

A. The Celtæ, who left the sea-coast, and were succeeded by the Belgæ.

Q. Of what grain did the Ancient Britons make their bread ?

A. Sometimes of wheat only, but usually of wheat, rye, and barley, mixed together.

Q. What was the government of the early Britons ?

A. *Patriarchal*, the head of each family being answerable to the neighbouring tribes for the conduct of the whole family.

CHAPTER III.

Of the different Orders among the Ancient Britons.

Q. WHAT were the several orders of the Ancient Britons ?

A. They were divided into three classes, answering to our *nobility*, *clergy* and *commonalty* ; the last of whom were little better than slaves, being dependent upon the other two.

Diet, s. food, Provisions for satisfying hunger.

Agriculture, s. the art of tilling and manuring the ground so as to make it fruitful.

Patriarchal, a. relating to a patriarch, or a father of a family or tribe. The word patriarch is derived from two Greek words, signifying father and chief.

Nobility, s. the chief persons of the kingdom, who by their honours and titles, are exalted above the Clergy and commons.

Clergy, s. a body of men set apart for the service of God and the Church. The privileges of the English Clergy are very con-

Q. What was the condition of the nobility ?

A. The nobility were considered in their several states as princes, or chiefs, each being the lord of a certain district.

Q. Who were the commonalty ?

A. The people of the lowest ranks, the common or poor people.

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Clergy among the Ancient Britons.

Q. How were the clergy of the Ancient Britons divided ?

A. Into three orders: namely, the Druids, Bards, and Vates; these had the whole care of religion, laws, and learning.

Q. Which was the chief of these orders ?

A. The Druids, who had the inspection of all public affairs, under the authority of the high priest, styled the Arch-Druid*; the latter had the power of calling the others to account and even of deposing them.

siderable: they are exempt from all offices but their own, and their goods pay no tax or toll of any kind in fairs or markets.

Commonalty, s. the great mass of the population of country comprehending the middle and lower orders.

*Arch-Druid, a chief priest. Arch is a word derived from the Greek, (signifying a principal or chief) and is generally used to express something of the first rank or order; hence is named an *archbishop* an *archangel*, (a) &c. It sometimes implies to a person endued with much low cunning.

The Druids were in Britain the first and most distinguished order in the island, chosen out of the best families; and the honours of their birth, added to their office, procured them the highest veneration. They were well versed in astronomy, geometry, natural philosophy, politics, and geography, and for the most part had the management of all the affairs of the nation, both civil and religious.

(a) *Arch*, before a vowel is pronounced *ark*.

Q. What was the office of the Bards ?

A. That of making verses in praise of heroes and other eminent persons, which verses they set to music, and sang to their harps.

Q. What was the occupation of the Vates ?

A. The study of philosophy and the works of nature ; and indeed, every art and science that could contribute to excite the astonishment and fix the *veneration* of the people, who regarded them as demi-gods*, *endowed* with more than mortal wisdom, and *illuminated* by *celestial inspiration*.

Q. What was the religion of the Ancient Britons ?

A. *Idolatry* of the worst kind, for they sometimes offered *human sacrifices* to their false gods.

Q. What plant did the Druids hold in high estimation, and what inanimate objects did they worship ?

A. They revered the *mistletoe* and the oak, and worshipped rocks, stones, and fountains.

* Demi-god, a half god.—Among the heathens those great men whose heroic exploits rendered them illustrious, and entitled them to the veneration of their countrymen, were after death, honoured with the title of *Demi-gods*.

Veneration, *s.* great respect, regard.

Endowed, *part.* portioned, possessed, gifted.

Illuminated, *part.* enlightened, adorned.

Celestial, *a.* heavenly.

Inspiration, *s.* wisdom, divine wisdom. An infusion of ideas by a superior power.

Idolatry, *s.* worship of images, or false gods, being that worship paid to the creature which is due only to the Creator, God.

Human, *a.* belonging to or like man.

Sacrifice, *s.* act of offering, or thing offered to heaven, or to gods, Human sacrifices—men murdered and made an offering.

Mistletoe, a plant of which there is only one kind in Europe. It never grows on the ground, but always receives its nourishment from some other plant, as the oak, apple-tree, pear-tree, &c.

Q. What became of the Druids ?

A. The greater part of them were put to death by the command of the Roman emperor Nero.

Q. How are we informed of the different events that took place among the Ancient Britons, as it appears they were ignorant of writing and printing ?

A. By their Bards, or poets, to whom was intrusted the record of national events.

CHAPTER V.

Of the Governments which existed in Britain before William the Conqueror.

Q. Who successively governed England before its conquest by William, Duke of Normandy* ?

A. It was successively governed by,

1. The Britons, the original inhabitants :
2. The Romans ;
3. The Saxons, a people of Germany ;
4. The Danes, natives of Denmark.

CHAPTER VI.

Invasion of England by Julius Cæsar.

Q. Who first invaded Britain ?

A. The Romans, under Julius Cæsar, 53 years before Christ.

Q. Did the Britons oppose the Romans† ?

* A very rich and fertile province of France. Normandy was conquered by the Normans, a people from Denmark and Norway, under Rollo, in the year 912; hence this country received its name.

† The inhabitants of Rome, (see Note p. 10. §) the chief city of Italy, and at one period the capital of the whole world. It received the name of Rome from Remulus, its founder. As this city was situated in the province of *Latium*, the inhabitants were sometimes called *Latini* or *Latins*; hence the *Roman Language* is called the *Latin language*.

A. Yes ; and several battles ensued ; but the Britons, being defeated, were compelled to sue for peace. Yet, after a short *campaign*, Cæsar was obliged to return into Gaul.

Q. Did Cæsar come back to England ?

A. Yes ; in the following summer, with a great increase of force, an army of 20,000 foot, a considerable body of horse, and a fleet of 800 ships*.

Q. Who was the commander of the British force in the time of Julius Cæsar ?

A. Cassivelaunus, king of Trinobantes.

Q. Did the Britons oppose the second landing of Cæsar ?

A. Yes ; but the contest was in vain ; for Cæsar advanced into the country, burnt Verulam†, (2) the capital of Cassivelaunus‡, and forced the Britons to submit to a yearly *tribute* : after these achievements he again withdrew his forces to the *continent*, and the Britons remained in quiet nearly a century.

§ Ancient Rome, in its full height of power, is said to have been twice as large as London, having had a population of four millions. At present it contains about 200,000 inhabitants, being no more than one twentieth part of its former number.

* The Roman ships or vessels were principally galleys, with oars.

† Verulam was situated in Hertfordshire, now St Alban's. It has also been named Verolanium.

‡ In the time of Cassivelaunus, Britain was divided into a great number of petty states, or kingdoms, each having a king or chieftain of its own ; and as Cassivelaunus was much celebrated for his great prudence and valour, he was elected to the supreme command by the other chiefs and fixed his residence at Verulam.—*Cæsar's Commentaries*.

Campaign, s. that space of time an army keeps the field without going into winter quarters.

Tribute, s. a tax which one prince or state is obliged to pay another as a token of dependence.

Continent, s. a tract of land containing many kingdoms, as Europe.

CHAPTER VII.

History of Britain in the time of the Romans.

Q. Who was the next Roman Emperor that undertook to conquer Britain?

A. Claudius Cæsar, the fourth Emperor of Rome; but he did not complete his purpose.

Q. What British king made a noble stand against him?

A. Caractacus, though he was at last taken *captive*, and carried to Rome.

Q. What was his exclamation when led in *triumph* through Rome?

A. "How is it possible, that a people possessed of so much *magnificence* at home, should envy me a humble cottage in Britain."

Q. What British Queen opposed the Romans with great personal valour?

A. Boadicea, queen of the Iceni (the inhabitants of Norfolk and Suffolk), but she was at last defeated, and in one great battle, A. D. 61, lost 80,000 of her men. To avoid the insults of the Romans, she poisoned herself.

Q. Did the Romans, by this victory, completely conquer the British?

A. No; Britain was not completely conquered till 30 years afterwards, in the reign of Titus,* by Julius Agricola, who introduced the arts and sciences of the Romans. It was Agricola who defeated the celebrated Galgacus on the Grampian hills, when he made peace with the Caledonians†

* Titus Vespasian, a Roman emperor, and son of Vespasian. He was born A.D. 40.

† The inhabitants of ancient Scotland.

Captive, s. a person taken in war and made a prisoner.

Triumph, s. joy for success. A public and solemn honour conferred by the Romans on a victorious general, by allowing him a magnificent or grand entry into the city.

Magnificence, s. grandeur of appearance, consisting of buildings, clothes, or furniture. Splendour.

Q. On what occasion did the Romans build the famous wall from Carlisle (3) to Newcastle (4) ?

A. To prevent the incursions of the Picts* from Scotland.

Q. Who built the great wall from the *Forth* (5) to the *Clyde* (6), and for what purpose ?

A. It was built by the Roman Emperor Severus, and for the same purposes as the wall above mentioned.

Q. When did Severus first land in England ?

A. In the year 208.

Q. How long was it after that time before the Romans completely abandoned this country ?

A. Two hundred and forty years afterwards, A.D. 488 ; their empire being much on the decline, they were not able to preserve so distant a province.

Q. How many years were the Britons subject to the Roman power ?

A. About 400 years.

CHAPTER VIII.

History of the Britons, from the Departure of the Romans to the Establishment of the Saxon Heptarchy.

Q. What people took advantage of the abject state of the Britons when the Romans withdrew their forces ?

* The Picts were a people of Scotland also, but mentioned only by later writers. They were variously named *Pechts*, *Picti*, or *Picts*, and are supposed by some writers to have been so called from painting their naked bodies to terrify those they intended to attack. They are believed to have originally emigrated from Scythia, into the northern parts of Britain, whence they annoyed the English for a long series of time. The Picts inhabited the Low Lands, on the southern part of Scotland, and the Caledonians the High Lands, or the North of Scotland.

N.B.—for a particular account of the people, see *Catechism of the History of Scotland*.

Forth, s. one of the finest rivers in Scotland, which empties itself into the German Ocean.

Clyde, s. a fine and noted river in Scotland, passing by Glasgow, and falling into the Frith of Clyde. The river affords many romantic views.

A. The Picts and Caledonians, the ancient inhabitants of Scotland, who ravaged and desolated the country, merely for a supply of their *temporary* wants.

Q. To whom did the Britons apply for aid to assist them in *repelling* their invaders ?

A. The Britons first applied to the Romans, but without success ; they afterwards *solicited* succour and protection from the Saxons, who complied with their request.

Q. Who were the Saxons ?

A. A people of Saxony, in the north of Germany.

Q. When did the Saxons first send an army to assist the Britons, and under what commanders ?

A. They first sent an army in the year 450, commanded by Hengist and Horsa, two brothers, who were highly renowned for their valor, and said to be descended from Woden, their principal deity.

Q. Were the Saxons successful against the Scots ?

A. Yes ; but they no sooner discomfited them, than they turned their thoughts to the reduction of the Britons ; and, receiving large reinforcements of their countrymen, they reduced England under their power, and founded the Anglo-Saxon* Heptarchy.

Q. Did all the Britons submit to the Saxon power ?

A. No ; many of them, rather than submit to the conquerors, retired into Wales, then called Cambria, where they were sheltered by the inaccessible mountains of that country.

* Anglo-Saxon, a compound adjective from the words *Anglo* and *Saxon*. The Anglo-Saxon heptarchy signifies that the people composing it were a mixture of Angles and Saxons, the former principally from Anglia, a province in Denmark, and the latter from Saxony.

Temporary, *a.* continuing only for a time.

Repelling, *part.* the act of driving back. *Resisting*.

Solicited, *part.* begged, asked.

Q. What is the meaning of the word Heptarchy ?

A. It is derived from two Greek words, signifying *seven* and *chief* ; hence it is applied to the Saxon power in England, which consisted of seven kings.*

Q. What part of Great Britain did the Saxon heptarchy include ?

A. That part of Great Britain called England.

Q. Name the several kingdoms of the Heptarchy, and by whom they were founded.

A. Their names were :—

Kent, founded by Hengist.

Sussex,.....Ella.

Wessex,.....Cerdic.

Essex,.....Erchenwin.

Northumberland,.....Ide and Ella.

East Anglia,.....Uffa.

Mercia,.....Crida.

Q. Who were the most renowned defenders of the Britons against the Saxons ?

A. The celebrated Ambrosius†, and the famous king Arthur ; the latter was killed in battle about the year 456.

Q. Did the Saxon princes continue long united ?

A. No, in a short time they disputed about their several rights, and after a series of wars, the whole of the heptarchy fell, and became subject to the power of Egbert, king of Wessex, who caused himself to be crowned at Winchester (7) by the title of King of England, A.D. 828, nearly 400 years after the first arrival of the Saxons in Britain ; and thus was laid the foundation of the kingdom of England.

* There are generally reckoned only seven kingdoms : but there were first eight, then seven, then six, then again eight, in consequence of different revolutions.

† Ambrosius, king of the Britons, was a native of Armorica, (afterwards named Bretagne or Brittany) a province of France. He died at Winchester in 508.

CHAPTER IX.

Of the English line of Kings.

Q. ENUMERATE the English line of kings?

A. The Saxons, Danish, Norman, Plantagenet, Tudour, Stuart, Orange or Nassau, and the line of Hanover or Brunswick.

Q. How many princes of each line?

A. Seventeen Saxons, three Danes, four Normans, fourteen Plantagenets, five Tudors, six Stuarts, and six of the line of Brunswick.

Q. Who was the first king of England?

A. Egbert, as observed in the last chapter.

Q. What people ravaged the coast of Britain during the reign of Egbert?

A. The Danes, but they were frequently defeated.

Q. Who succeeded Egbert?

A. His son, Ethelwolf, A.D.* 838, during whose feeble reign the Danes often continued their depredations with but little interruption.

Q. How long did Ethelwolf reign, and when did he die?

A. He reigned twenty years, and died A.D. 857.

Q. What remarkable event happened in Scotland during the reign of Ethelwolf?

A. In this reign the Picts, so formidable heretofore to the Southern Britons, were entirely *extirpated* by their neighbours the Scots, after a long and terrible war between them.

Q. What part of Scotland did the Picts inhabit?

A. Scotland was divided into two parts, one called the Highlands, and the other the Lowlands: the Picts inhabited the latter.

Q. What was the ancient name of the Highlands of Scotland?

* The letters A.D. stand for the latin words *Anno Domini*, which signify *in the year of our Lord*, that is, the number of years after the birth of Christ when the event happened.

A. Caledonia ; but this name at one period, was applied to all Scotland, hence the Scots are sometimes called Caledonians.

Q. To whom did Ethelwolf leave his dominions and royal power ?

A. To his second son, Ethelbert ; after him to his third son, Ethelred ; and then to Alfred his youngest son ; who all in their turns succeeded to the crown.

Q. What became of Ethelbald the eldest son ?

A. While Ethelwolf was at Rome, Ethelbald entered into a *conspiracy* to dethrone his father, and seize the kingdom ; and he made so great a party, that Ethelwolf was obliged to give up to him the kingdom of Wessex, and to rest content with that of Kent for himself.

Q. How long did Ethelbald reign before his father's death, and how long after ?

A. Two years before his death, and two and a half after his death. He died in 860.

Q. Did anything occur worthy of remark in the reign of Ethelbert ?

A. Nothing except the *incursions* of the Danes.

Q. How long did he reign, and when did he die ?

A. He reigned five years after the death of his brother, and died in 866.

Q. What happened in the reign of Ethelred I. ?

A. The Danes made themselves masters of Northumberland, and several other parts in England, but were strongly opposed by Ethelred, who unfortunately received a *mortal* wound in a battle he fought with them near Wittingham, A.D. 871, in the sixth year of his reign. He was succeeded by Alfred the Great.

Conspiracy, *s.* a plot, a private agreement between two or more persons to commit some crime..

Incursion, *s.* an invasion of a country, not amounting to a conquest.

Mortal, *a.* deadly. causing death.

CHAPTER X.

Of the Reign of Alfred the Great.

Q. WHEN did Alfred succeed to the crown of England ?

A. In the year 872, when the Danes were in the very heart of his dominions, and all the sea-ports were filled with their fleets.

Q. Did Alfred give them battle ?

A. Yes ; and after many engagements he at length received so severe a defeat, that he was obliged to dismiss his followers, and seek for safety in flight and concealment.

Q. Whither did Alfred retire ?

A. To the little island of Athelney, (8) Somersetshire, a few miles below Taunton. Here he remained, until he learned that the Danes had grown negligent from success.

Q. What did Alfred then do ?

A. He disguised himself as a harper or minstrel, and having entered the Danish *camp*, he made his observations, returned to his friends, assembled his troops, and completely routed the enemy.

Q. What became of those who escaped ?

A. They fled to a castle, but were soon compelled to surrender to Alfred ; who pardoned them on condition that they and their leader, Guthrum, should embrace Christianity ; to which they consented, and Alfred conferred on Guthrum the government of East Anglia and Northumberland.

Q. What followed this victory ?

A. Alfred was once more seated upon the throne, where he proved himself, with scarcely any exception, the best king that ever reigned.

Q. Relate the remarkable events of Alfred's reign besides his defeating the Danes ?

Camps, s. the place occupied by the tents of an army, when they lodge in the field.

A. He founded the *university* of Oxford ; (9) divided England into *shires*, hundreds, and tythings ; established a national militia ; encouraged learning and learned men ; invented a way of measuring time by candles which were made to burn eight hours each, there being at this period no clocks or watches ; and made the navy very respectable.

Q. How long did Alfred reign ?

A. He reigned a little more than twenty-nine years, and died at Oxford, on the 25th of October, 901.

CHAPTER XI.

Of the Reigns of Edward, Athelstan, Edmund, Edred, and Edwy.

Q. Who succeeded Alfred the Great ?

A. His son called Edward the Elder, who fought several battles with the Danes, and completely routed them ; he afterwards marched against the Welsh, over whom he gained a decisive victory, and compelled the Welsh King, Rees ap Madoc, to sue for peace, and promise to pay an annual tribute for the future.

Q. How long did he reign, when did he die, and where was he interred ?

A. He reigned twenty-four years, died A.D. 925, and was interred at Winchester. He was succeeded by his son Athelstan.

Q. Did Athelstan perform any act worthy of notice ?

A. Yes ; he obtained a great victory over the Danes in Northumberland, after which he reigned in tranquility, being regarded as one of the ablest kings of those times. He died in the year 941, and was succeeded by his brother Edmund I.

Q. What events happened in the time of Edmund ?

University, s. a school or collection of colleges, where all the arts and sciences are taught.
Shire. s. a division of a kingdom, the same as county.

A. Soon after Edmund began to reign, the Danes revolted, and recovered Northumberland, Cumberland, and Mercia; but these places were retaken by Edmund.

Q. What was the manner of Edmund's death?

A. He was stabbed at a feast in Gloucester by Leolf, a robber, whom he had sentenced to banishment. He was succeeded by his brother Edred, A.D. 946.

Q. What events happened in this reign?

A. The Danes, according to their custom upon the accession of a new king, revolted, and gained over to their side Maleolm king of Scotland, but Edred marched against them, and obliged Malcolm to sue for peace, and to renew his *homage* for the land which he had held in England.

Q. What churches and monasteries did Edred rebuild?

A. He rebuilt the church and *monastery* of Glastonbury, (10) and the monasteries of Croyland (11) and Abingdon (12).

Q. How long did he reign?

A. He reigned nine years, died 955, and was succeeded by Edwy, the son of Edmund.

Q. What event happened in the reign of Edwy?

A. In the reign of Edwy, Dunston, a proud *abbot* who pretended to be a *saint*, raised a *faction* against him, and became so powerful, that Edwy was obliged to divide the kingdom with his brother Edgar. He died after a reign of about four years, and was buried at Winchester.

Homage, s. service, reverence, respect, submission, performed to a sovereign or superior.

Monastery, s. a house of religious retirement, a convent.

Abbot, s. the chief ruler of a monastery, or abbey; if a female she is styled *abbess*.

Saint, s. a person eminent for piety and virtue.

Faction, s. a party, a tumult, sedition.

CHAPTER XII.

Of the Reigns of Edgar, Edward, Ethelred, and Edmund Ironside.

Q. By whom was Edwy succeeded ?

A. By his brother Edgar, A.D. 959, whose reign was one continued calm, without any wars or commotions ; this was owing to his agreement with Dunstan and the powerful monks, and to his vast preparations both by sea and land, so that none dared to attack him.

Q. What triumphs did he obtain ?

A. By the mere terror of his name he compelled the kings of Wales, Ireland, and the Isle of Man to acknowledge him as their sovereign.

Q. What rapacious animals infested England in the time of Edgar, and how did he destroy them ?

A. The animals which infested England were wolves ; and to extirpate them, Edgar changed the tribute which the Welsh used to pay in money, into so many wolves' heads, to be paid every year. This expedient, in a few years, effectually cleared the country, and there have been no wolves in England since, excepting those brought from abroad.

Q. What other particulars relate to Edgar ?

A. He encouraged foreigners to settle in England ; reigned sixteen years, died A.D. 975, aged thirty-one, and was interred at Glastonbury.

Q. By whom was he succeeded ?

A. By his son Edward the Martyr, who was murdered at the instigation of his mother-in-law Elfrida, after reigned three years and a half.

Q. By whom was he succeeded ?

A. By his half brother Ethelred, the second son of Edgar and Elfrida.

Q. What events happened in this reign ?

Rapacious, a. ravenous. g. greedy.

Infest, v. to harass, trouble or plague.

Instigation, s. the act of urging to a crime.

A. In this reign the Danes again invaded England; they at first landed near Southampton, (13) A.D. 981, and for ten years afterwards there was nothing but plunderings, conflagrations, murders, and every imaginable misery.

Q. What did Ethelred do to prevent the depredations of the Danes?

A. He purchased their forbearance with great sums of money, and made an *alliance* with Richard the Second, duke of Normandy, by marrying Emma, sister to that prince.

Q. What barbarous act did Ethelred commit to rid himself of the Danes?

A. All the Danes who resided in England, except those in East Anglia and Mercia, were, by his orders, *massacred* in one day, the festival of St. Brice, Nov. 13th, 1002.

Q. What did Sweyn king of Denmark do when he heard of this bloody act?

A. He declared that he would never rest till he had avenged so monstrous an outrage; and thereupon *equipping* a fleet of 200 ships, he invaded the country, not for plunder as before, but to destroy it with fire and sword.

Q. What was the result of this Danish *expedition*?

A. Sweyn soon arrived in England, made great havoc among the English, obliged them to pay him a large sum of money, and, after a long struggle, compelled Ethelred to take *refuge* in the court of his brother-in-law, Richard duke of Normandy, 1013.

Q. Did Ethelred ever return to England?

A. Shortly after, Sweyn dying, the nobility invited Ethelred to return; but he did not long enjoy the throne,

Alliance, s. a union between different parties for their mutual defence. A union by marriage.

Massacred, *part.* murdered.

Equipped, *part.* fitted out, furnished.

Expedition, s. a march or voyage with an intent to attack an enemy. (speed, haste.)

Refuge, s. a shelter from danger.

for Canute, the successor of Sweyn, proved to be as powerful an enemy as his *predecessor*.

Q. How long did Ethelred reign ?

A. Thirty-seven years : he died in 1016, and was succeeded by his son Edmund ; sometimes called Edmund Ironside, on account of his hardy valour.

Q. What events happened in this reign ?

A. Numerous contentions between the English and the Danes under Canute ; who at last agreed to divide the kingdom.

Q. What was the character of Edmund ?

A. This prince, during his short reign, *exhibited* proofs of the most *undaunted* courage, invincible *fortitude*, *consummate* prudence, and *sublime* generosity.

Q. State his death and where he was interred.

A. He was treacherously murdered in 1017, at Oxford, and interred at Glastonbury ; and thus made way for the succession of Canute the Dane, to the Crown of England.

Q. How long had the Saxon Monarchy lasted ?

A. One hundred and ninety years from Egbert's establishment ; 432 from the foundation of the Heptarchy, and 568 from the arrival of Hengist.

CHAPTER XIII.

Of the Danes in England.

Q. WHAT were the names of the Danish Kings who reigned in England ?

- A. 1. Canute the Great.
2. Harold I.
3. Hardicanute.

Predecessor, *s.* one going before, an ancestor.

Exhibited, *part.* displayed, shown.

Undaunted, *part.* not daunted, very bold, daring.

Fortitude, *s.* great courage, bravery.

Consummate, *a.* complete, perfect.

Sublime, *a.* high in excellence.

Q. Who succeeded Edmund Ironside ?

A. Canute the Great, who was proclaimed king of England in the year 1017. He divided England into four parts ; namely Mercia, Northumberland, East Anglia, and Wessex ; and made the government of England such that every person should be treated alike.

Q. Relate a remarkable anecdote that is recorded of that prince.

A. While walking by the sea-side at Southampton (13), attended by some of his courtiers, he became disgusted at the extravagant flattery of some who compared Canute to God himself ; to convince them of their *impiety*, he ordered a chair to be placed on the sand opposite the approaching tide,* and said, O Sea, thou art under my *jurisdiction*. I command thee to come no farther, nor dare to wet thy sovereign's feet."

Q. What followed this pompous command ?

A. The tide coming in as usual, he thence took occasion to let his base flatterers know, that none but the King of Heaven, whom the sea and land obey, deserve the titles they impiously bestowed upon him. After which, it is said, he would never wear a crown, but caused it to be put on the head of a *crucifix* at Winchester.

Q. How long did Canute reign ?

A. Eighteen years. He died in the year 1035, and left three sons : Sweyn, who had Norway ; Harold, England ; and Hardicanute, Denmark.

* The tides are two periodical motions of the sea, called *flux* and *reflux*, or *flow* and *ebb*. The tide is said to *flow*, when it rises or approaches the land ; to *ebb*, when it recedes, or retires towards the sea. The cause of the tides is the attraction of the sun and moon, but chiefly the latter.

Impiety, *s.* ungodliness, wickedness.

Jurisdiction, *s.* power, authority.

Crucifix, a representation of our Saviour on the cross.

Q. What events happened in Harold's reign ?

A. None of importance. He died in 1039, without *issue*, in the fourth year of his reign, and was succeeded by his brother, Hardicanute.

CHAPTER XIV.

Of the Reign of Hardicanute.

Q. WHAT events happened in the reign of Hardicanute ?

A. He brought with him to England fifty Danish ships ; and, soon after he was crowned, he laid a heavy tax upon the nation to pay his fleet, which he sent back to Denmark.

Q. Did the nation quietly submit to this tax ?

A. No ; the people of Worcester (14) opposed it with great violence, and two of the persons employed to collect it were killed ; which so *incensed* the king, that he sent the dukes of Wessex and Mercia, and the earl of Northumberland, with their forces against Worcester, who after plundering the city for four days, burnt it to the ground.

Q. What was the general character of Hardicanute, and how long did he reign ?

A. He was *brutally* cruel and *vindictive*, and *infamous* for *gluttony* and *drunkenness* ; he died suddenly as he was *carousing* at the wedding of a Danish lord at *Lambeth* (15).

Q. How did the English behave at his death ?

Issue, s. offspring, children.

Incensed, *part.* provoked.

Brutally, *ad.* savagely, inhumanly.

Vindictive, *a.* given to revenge, revenge.

Infamous, *a.* notorious, vile.

Gluttony, s. excess in eating.

Drunkenness, s. excess in drinking strong liquors, or the habit of getting drunk.

Carousing, *part.* drinking freely.

Lambeth, s. a village joining London.

A. They rejoiced; and for several centuries after, they observed the day of his death, June the 8th, as a holiday, by the name of Hoctide.

Q. In what year did he die?

A. In the year 1041, and in the second year of his reign: With him ended the monarchy of the Danes in England, after it had lasted about twenty-six years; though the invasions of these barbarians had harassed the kingdom 250 years.

CHAPTER XV.

SAXON LINE RESTORED.

Of the Reign of Edward the Confessor, and Harold the Second.

Q. Who succeeded Hardicanute?

A. Edward the Confessor*, son of Ethelred and Emma; who had spent great part of his life in Normandy.

Q. What events happened in the reign of Edward?

A. He abolished for ever the tax called *Danegelt*, which amounted to £40,000 a year and had been levied for thirty-eight years.

Q. Whom did he marry?

A. The daughter of Earl Godwin, an English nobleman of Saxon descent.

Q. What events happened in the reign of Edward, besides those already mentioned.

A. Edward built Westminster Abbey: he collected the Saxon laws and customs into one body, which were thence called by his name: and he was the first monarch who touched for the king's evil.

Q. By whom was Edward succeeded.

* He was surnamed the *confessor* on account of his piety.

Danegelt. s. a tax formerly imposed on the people of England by the Danes, on their frequent invasions, as the arbitrary terms of peace.

A. By Harold the Second, son of Earl Godwin, who had all the qualifications requisite for forming a great prince.

Q. What events happened in this reign?

A. In this reign England was invaded by the Normans under William the Conqueror, who obtained the crown by the famous battle of Hastings, which cost Harold his life.

Q. Where did William the Conqueror land his forces, when he came over from Normandy?

A. At Pevensey, (16) in Sussex, Sept. 29th, 1066. Thence he marched along the shore, as far as Hastings, where on the 14th October, was fought the battle above mentioned. There the brave Harold fell, after a turbulent reign of nine months and nine days. With him totally ended the empire of the Anglo-Saxons, in England, which had begun in the person of Hengist, above 600 years before.

A TABLE

Of the Kings and Queens of England from the Conquest.

<i>The Norman Line (a).</i>		<i>The Plantagenets (c).</i>	
	Reigned from		Reigned from
William I.	1066 to 1087	Henry II.	1154 to 1189
William II.	1087 to 1100	Richard I.	1189 to 1199
		John	1199 to 1216
		Henry III.	1216 to 1272
		Edward I.	1272 to 1307
		Edward II.	1307 to 1326
Henry I.	1100 to 1135	Edward III.	1326 to 1377
Stephen	1135 to 1154	Richard II.	1377 to 1399

(a) Q. What is meant by the *Norman Line*?

A. The *Norman Line* is so named from William the Conqueror, who came from Normandy in France.

(b) Q. Whence is the name of the *House of Blois*?

A. This House is so named from *Adela* (the seventh child of William the Conqueror), who was married to the *Count of Blois*, of France.

(c) Q. Whence name we the *Plantagenet Race*?

A. From Henry the second, who was the son of Matilda, the second child of Henry the First, and *Geoffrey Plantagenet*, Duke of Anjou, in France.

The House of Lancaster (d).

	Reigned from
Henry IV.	1399 to 1412
Henry V.	1412 to 1422
Henry VI.	1422 to 1461

The House of York (e).

Edward IV.	1461 to 1483
Edward V.	1483
Richard III.	1483 to 1485

House of Tudor (f).

Henry VII.	1485 to 1509
Henry VIII.	1509 to 1546
Edward VI.	1546 to 1553
Mary	1553 to 1558
Elizabeth	1558 to 1602

House of Stuart (g).

James I.	1602 to 1625
Charles I.	1625 to 1648

(The Commonwealth.)

	Reigned from
Charles II.	1660 to 1685
James II.	1685 to 1688

The Revolution. 1688.

William III.	1688 to 1702
Anne	1702 to 1714

The House of Brunswick or Hanover (h).

George I.	1714 to 1727
George II.	1727 to 1760
George III.	1760 to 1820
George IV.	1820 to 1830
William IV.	1830 to 1837
Victoria	1837 <i>viv. reg.</i>

(d) Q. Whence is named the *House of Lancaster*?

A. From Henry the Fourth, who was son of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster. John of Gaunt was the fifth child of Henry the Third.

(e) Q. Whence is the name of the *House of York*?

A. From Edward the Fourth, son of Richard, Duke of York, who was lineally descended from Lionel, Duke of Clarence, the second son of *Edward the Third*.

(f) Q. Whence is the name of the *House of Tudor*?

A. This house received its name from Henry the Seventh who was the son of *Margaret* and *Edmund Tudor*. Margaret was a lineal descendant from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. Edmund Tudor was the son of Owen Tudor, who married the widow of Henry the fifth.

(g) Q. Whence is the origin of the *House of Stuart*?

A. From James the First, who was the son of Mary (whose family name was Stuart) Queen of Scots, and Henry, Earl of Daruley.

(h) Q. Whence do we trace the *House of Brunswick*?

A. From George the First, who was the eldest son of Ernest Augustus, Duke (afterwards elector) of Brunswick Lüneburgh (or Hanover) by Princess Sophia, daughter of Frederick King of Bohemia, and of Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of King

CHAPTER XVI.

Of William the Conqueror.

Q. Who was William the Conqueror ?

A. The natural son of Robert the First, Duke of Normandy.

Q. What is meant by the Norman Conquest ?

A. The Conquest of England by William the Norman.

Q. What pretence had William to the sovereignty of England ?

A. He pretended that Edward, the last king of the Saxon line, during his stay in Normandy, whither he had been obliged to flee on account of the usurpation of the Danes, had, in gratitude for the favors he had received, promised him his kingdom ; which, at his death, William came over to claim.

Q. When was William crowned King of England ?

A. On Christmas day, in the year 1066.

Q. What were the principal events in the time of William the Conqueror.

A. Dooms-day book was compiled ; the curfew-bell established, the four terms of law appointed, the New Forest in Hampshire laid out, and the Feudal law introduced.

Q. What was doomsday-book ?

A. An account of the value of every man's estate, and of cattle and of servants upon it.

Q. What was the curfew-bell ?

James the First. The *Electors of Brunswick Luneburgh* are more commonly called *Electors (now Kings) of Hanover*. It is to be observed, that the House of Brunswick is divided into two lines, that of Luneburgh and Wolfenbittel, so named from the cities of Luneburgh and Wolfenbittel, the residences of the former princes. The younger branch is that of Brunswick-Luneburgh, the present line of the kings of England ; and the elder branch of Brunswick-Wolfenbittel, the line of the heroic duke of Brunswick who gloriously fell, in avenging his country's cause at Quatre-Bras, on the 13th June, 1815.

Q. A bell ordered to be rung every night, at eight o'clock, when the English were obliged to put out their fires and candles.

Q. What was the fendal law ?

A. The law by which feuds or fiefs, the new divisions of lands, were regulated ; the tenants were *vassals* to a superior lord, who was himself a vassal to the king. Instead of rent, the vassals were obliged upon the lord's *summons*, to follow his *standard* in war, to protect him in every danger, and to remain in the field forty days at their own expense

Q. What invention took place in this reign ?

A. That of musical notes, by a Frenchman.

Q. What was the character of William ?

A. He was a prince of great courage, capacity and ambition ; *politic*, stern and vindictive. His stature was rather low, but his body large and powerful, his *constitution* robust. and bones and muscles so strong, that there was hardly a man of that age who could bend his bow or handle his arms.

Q. What were the dominions of William ?

A. England and Normandy. He reigned in Normandy twenty-two years, and twenty-one in England. He died near Rouen, Sept. 9th, 1087, in the 61st year of his age.

CHAPTER XVII.

Of the Reigns of William Rufus, Henry the First and Stephen.

Q. Who succeeded William the Conqueror ?

A. His second son, William Rufus, who, in the thirteenth year of his reign, was shot by accident, as he was hunting in the new forest, A.D. 1100. He was buried in Winchester.

Vassal, *s*, dependant, a slave.

Summons, *s*, a call of authority, a demand.

Standard, *s*, an ensign, a flag.

Politic, *s*, relating to the art of government.

Constitution, *s*, a frame of body or mind ; form of government.

Q. What was his character ?

A. He was courageous almost to ferocity, and seems to have been endowed with very few virtues.

Q. What were his dominions ?

A. England and Normandy.

Q. Had he any children ?

A. No.

Q. What were the remarkable events of his reign ?

A. The crusades, or holy war, were set on foot ; the design of which was to recover the Holy Land, and especially Jerusalem, out of the hands of the *Saracens*. In 1089, William rebuilt London bridge, raised a new wall round the tower, and erected the famous Hall at Westminster.

Q. Why was he named Rufus ?

A. From his red hair and *florid complexion*.

Q. Who was the successor of William II.

A. Henry the First, named Beauclerk, or the Scholar, on account of his great learning ; he was the youngest son of William the Conqueror.

Q. Whom did he marry ?

A. Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland.

Q. What event happened in the reign of Henry ?

A. His only son, William, and a natural daughter, were lost in sight of the English shore on their passage from Normandy, by the unskilfulness of the *pilots*. This affected Henry so deeply, that he never smiled afterwards.

Q. What was his character, and when did he die ?

A. He was an excellent monarch for the age in which he lived, of noble presence, valiant and politic. He died 1st December, 1135, aged sixty-seven, having reigned thirty-five years.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the First ?

Saracens, s. the inhabitants of Arabia.

Florid, s. flushed with red ; red.

Complexion, s. the colour of the face.

Pilot, s. one who conducts a ship.

A. Stephen of *Blois* (17) nephew of Henry, and son of Adela, the fourth daughter of William the Conqueror. Though Stephen had taken the *oath of allegiance* to Maud or Matilda, the daughter of Henry the First, in case he died without issue male, he found means to supplant her, and place the crown upon his own head.

Q. What remarkable event happened in the reign of Stephen ?

A. During his reign, England was one continued scene of bloodshed and horror, from the contest of Maud, Stephen and the barons, at length, on the death of Stephen's only son, Eustace, it was agreed that Stephen should enjoy the crown during his life ; and that, at his death, it should descend to young Henry, son of Maud.

Q. How long did Stephen reign, and when did he die ?

A. He reigned eighteen years, and died October 25th, 1154, in the fiftieth year of his age.

Q. What were the possessions of Stephen ?

A. England only.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE LINE OF PLANTAGENET.

Henry the Second.

Q. Who succeeded Stephen ?

A. Henry Plantagenet,* the son of Maud and Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou.

* The original name of this illustrious family was Martel, they took the name Plantagenet from the branch of a green broom, (*Planta Genista*,) which one of the first Counts of Anjou had been enjoined to wear, as a penance for his crimes.

Blois, s. a town of France.

Oath, s. a solemn vow of affirmation. wherein we appeal to God as a witness to the truth of what we say.

Allegiance, s. the duty of a subject to a prince.

Q. What distinguished persons lived in this reign ?

A. The celebrated fair Rosamond, daughter of Lord Clifford, who was mistress to Henry the Second. Poisoned by Queen Eleanor, her beauty and her fate have rendered her name famous. Also Thomas-a-Becket, a celebrated churchman, who had been raised from a mean station to the Archbishopric of Canterbury (18).

Q. What were Henry's possessions ?

A. England, Normandy, Anjou, Guienne, Poictou, and Ireland, which he subdued.

Q. How many children had Henry ?

A. Seven ; namely, Geoffrey, Henry, Richard, John, and three daughters : the two younger sons succeeded to the throne.

Q. When did Henry die ?

A. July 6th, 1189, in the fifty-seventh year of his age, and thirty-fifth of his reign. He established the circuits of the Judges.

CHAPTER XIX.

Richard the First and John, or Lack-Land.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the Second ?

A. His son Richard, surnamed Cœur de Lion, or Lion-Hearted.

Q. What was the character of Richard ?

A. He was a man of great ability and wit, and full of the heroic valor of the times ; he went to Palestine or the Holy Land, with the crusaders, and seemed to forget that he was king of England. Richard was the first who assumed the motto of " God and my right," and affixed it to his arms.

Q. What action of Richard the First does history record most in favor of his generous mind ?

A. The pardon of his brother John, after repeated treasons : when he said, " I forgive you, and wish I could as easily forget your injuries as you will my pardon."

Motto. s. a sentence added to any device or emblem.

Q. What occasioned Richard's death ?

A. He was shot at the siege of the castle of Cealons,* near Milognes,* in France, and died eleven days after, on the 6th of April, 1199.

Q. By whom was Richard succeeded ?

A. By his brother John, surnamed Sans Terre, or Lack-Land.

Q. What was the character of John ?

A. He appears to have been possessed of few good qualities, and to have been unfortunate as he was weak. He was engaged in continual war with the barons, and contests with the popes.

Q. Of what wicked act was he accused ?

A. Of murdering his nephew Arthur, son of Geoffrey, the eldest son of Henry the Second, and lawful heir to the crown. Shakspeare has written a fine tragedy on this circumstance.

Q. How long did he reign, when did he die, and where was he interred ?

A. He reigned seventeen years, died October 18th, 1216, and was buried in the Cathedral of Worcester. John was the first who coined English money.

Q. How many children had John ?

A. Five. Henry his eldest son succeeded him.

Q. Who signed Magna Charta ?†

A. John.

Q. What was Magna Charta ?

A. An act granting to the barons and citizens greater privileges than they had ever enjoyed before. By this act the severities of the feudal law were mitigated, and English freedom restored. In 1215, the first mayor and sheriffs of London took those titles.

*Pronounced *Shalong*, and *Melone*.

†*Magna* is a latin word signifying great. *Charta*, signifies a deed or written evidence of things done between two parties pronounced *Karta*.)

CHAPTER XX.

Henry the Third.

Q. Who succeeded John ?

A. His son, Henry the Third, who was born at Winchester.

Q. What was his character ?

A. He was a weak monarch, of narrow genius, without courage or conduct; partly, perhaps, occasioned by his succeeding to the throne so young, he being only nine years old when his father died.

Q. When was the Court of Common Pleas* first instituted, and when were aldermen† first appointed ?

A. In the reign of Henry the Third. The first regular *parliament* was called by Henry.

Q. When was marriage first solemnized in churches ?

A. In the reign of Henry the Third. Magnifying glasses and magic lanthorns were also invented in this reign by Roger Bacon, the Monk.

Q. What other improvements were introduced in the reign of Henry the Third ?

A. Cider, linen and *tapestry*, were first made in England, and the mariner's compass, said to be invented by the French or Venitians.

Q. When was the Inquisition established here ?

* *The Court of Common Pleas* is held at Westminster, and its object is to take cognizance of all pleas that are not pleas of the crown.

† *Aldermen*, the name given to the twenty-six persons who preside over the twenty-six wards into which the City of London is divided. Out of these the Lord Mayor is generally chosen by rotation. Other cities besides London have also their Aldermen.

Parliament, s. the assembly of the king, lords, and commons, whose object is to debate on matters relating to the state

Tapestry, s. cloth woven with various figures, for hangings, &c.

A. In the reign of this prince.

Q. What was the inquisition?

A. A cruel court composed of *monks* and *friars*, appointed to take cognizance of every thing supposed to be *heretical* or contrary to the established religion, which was then Roman Catholic.

Q. When did he die, and where was he interred?

A. He died November 16th. 1272. having reigned fifty-six years and was interred in Westminster abbey, near the *shrine* of Edward the Confessor.

CHAPTER XXI

Edward the First, surnamed Longshanks.

Q. WHAT was the character of Edward, his son and successor?

A. He was a brave and wise king. He subdued Wales, and annexed it to England; he carried on a war in Scotland with great success; and he was careful to extend the commerce of his people.

Q. Was not Edward very cruel to the Jews?

A. Yes; not fewer than 15,000 were in his reign, robbed of their effects, and banished the kingdom.

Q. Where was Edward's eldest son born?

A. At Carnarvon, (21) in Wales, and at the age of seventeen he was invested with the principality of that country. From that time the king's eldest son has been styled Prince of Wales.

Monk. s. a person who retires from the world to give himself wholly up to devotion, and to live in abstinence and solitude.

Friar. s. a religious brother or companion in some regular order among the Roman Catholics.

Cognizance, s. judicial notice, knowledge.

Heretical. a. containing heresy, which opposes the opinion of the Catholic Church.

Shrine. s. a case in which something sacred is deposited.

Q. How long did Edward I. reign, and when and where did he die?

A. He reigned thirty-four years and died at Carlisle, (23) July 7th, aged sixty-eight years.

Q. What were the improvements and discoveries in the reign of Edward the First?

A. Geography and the use of the globes were introduced; tallow candles and coals were first used in common; windmills were invented; and wine was sold only as a cordial in apothecaries' shops.

CHAPTER XXII.

Reign of Edward the Second.

Q. Who succeeded Edward the First?

A. His son, Edward of Carnarvon, who was a weak prince.

Q. What was his fate?

A. He was deposed at the end of a turbulent reign of twenty years, the regal authority devolving upon his queen, by whose orders he was cruelly murdered in Berkeley Castle, (22) September 21st, A. D. 1327. His successor was his son Edward, Prince of Wales, who was born at Windsor (23) November 15th, 1312.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Reign of Edward the Third.

Q. WHAT was the character of Edward the Third?

A. He was a wise king, and one of the most renowned monarchs that ever sat on the English throne.

Q. How many children had Edward?

A. Nine: five sons and four daughters; the most celebrated was Edward, the eldest, called the Black Prince, from the colour of his armour; he died before his father the other sons were Lionel, duke of Clarence; John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster; Edmund, duke of York; and Thomas, duke of Gloucester.

Cordial. s. a cherishing draught (*draft*).

Apothecary. s. a person who prepares and sells medicines.

Q. What are the principal events that happened in his reign?

A. The battles of Crecy,* (24) and Poictiers (25); the defeat of the Scots; the surrender of Calais (26) to the English; and a great naval victory gained over the French.

Q. Describe the battle of Crecy?

A. In the year 1346 the famous battle of Crecy was fought between the French and English: the French army consisted of 100,000 men, out of which about 37,000 were slain besides many prisoners, and the others put to flight. The English army consisted of only 30,000 men.

Q. Who were the most celebrated among the slain?

A. The kings of *Bohemia* and *Majorca*. The crest of the king of Bohemia was three ostrich feathers, and his motto these German words—*Ich Dien*.—"I serve" which the Prince of Wales, the Black Prince, adopted in memory of this great victory, and his successors have borne them ever since.

Q. What other events happened in this reign?

A. The order of the Garter was instituted, and gold was first coined. In this reign also the celebrated Wickliffe, the great reformer of religion.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Reign of Richard the Second.

Q. Who was Richard the Second?

A. The son of Edward the Black Prince; he was only eleven years old when he succeeded his grandfather, A.D. 1377.

*Crecy, Poictiers and Calais, are three celebrated towns of France.

Bohemia, s. a considerable country of Europe, subject to the rule of Austria.

Majorca, s. a considerable island in the Mediterranean sea, subject to Spain.

Q. What was his character ?

A. He was admired while a boy, as having a good and open spirit, but when he grew up, he became weak and effeminate. He was deprived of his crown by Henry, duke of Lancaster, and murdered, or starved to death, in Pomfret Castle, A.D. 1400 (27.)

Q. What events happened in the reign of Richard the Second ?

A. The principal was an insurrection against the poll-tax, headed by Wat Tyler, and the usurpation of Henry, duke of Lancaster.

Q. To what did the usurpation of Henry give rise ?

A. To the numerous and fatal contests of the White and Red Rose, or houses of York and Lancaster.

Q. When were cards invented ?

A. In the time of Richard the Second.

Q. For whom were they invented ?

A. For Charles the Sixth, king of France, called the Well-beloved ; he was *insane* the greater part of his reign ; and cards were invented to amuse him during the intervals of reason.

CHAPTER XXV.

Reign of Henry the Fourth.

Q. Who succeeded Richard the Second ?

A. Henry the Fourth, duke of Lancaster, surnamed Bolingbroke ; he was the eldest son of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward III. He was crowned October 13th, 1399, and ascended the throne upon the forced resignation of Richard, whose death at Pomfret soon followed.

Q. What distinguished characters lived in this and the preceding reigns ?

A. Chaucer and Gower, both English poets ; and William of Wykham, bishop of Winchester.

Q. What happened to the eldest son of Henry, when prince of Wales ?

Insane, a. mad, out of one's mind.

A. Sir William Gascoigne, the Lord Chief Justice, sent him to prison for contempt of his authority.

Q. Relate the circumstance.

A. One of his dissolute companions having been brought before this magistrate for felony, Henry, who was present, was so provoked at the issue of the trial, that he struck the judge in open court. Sir William, fully sensible of the reverence due to his authority, committed the prince to prison.

Q. What did the king say when he heard of it?

A. He exclaimed, "Happy is the king who has a subject endowed with courage to execute the law upon such an offender, and still more happy in having a son willing to submit to such a chastisement."

Q. How many children had Henry?

A. Six; four sons and two daughters. He was succeeded by his eldest son Henry. He died of apoplexy at Westminster, March 20th, 1413.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Reign of Henry the Fifth.

Q. WHAT was the character of Henry the Fifth?

A. His valour was such that no danger could startle, and no difficulty resist; nor was his policy inferior to his courage. He was chaste, temperate, and modest, and without an equal in the art of war and government.

Q. What was the principal events of his reign?

A. The conquest of France, which he undertook as soon as he came to the throne. It was Henry who gained the celebrated victory of *Agincourt* (28). No battle was ever more fatal to the French, from the number of princes and nobility slain and taken prisoners. Henry was afterwards declared Regent of France, and heir to the French monarchy.

Q. How many children had the king?

A. Only one, the Prince of Wales, who was not a year

Agincourt, s. a village in France.

old in 1422, when his father died. The queen, after the death of Henry, married Sir Owen Tudor, a Welch gentleman, who is said to have been descended from the princes of that country, by whom she had two sons.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Reign of Henry the Sixth.

Q. WHAT were the most remarkable events of this reign?

A. The loss of France, through the celebrated Maid of Orleans, and the dreadful contest between the houses of Lancaster and York, called the factions of the Red and White Roses; that of Lancaster being termed the Red Rose, and York the White. The Duke of York was killed, but his son Edward continued the claim, and routed Henry the Sixth, who was imprisoned in the Tower, and most probably murdered, A.D. 1471.

Q. Had Henry any children.

A. Yes; a son, Edward, Prince of Wales, who was also murdered.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE LINE OF YORK.

Edward the Fourth, Earl of March.

Q. WHAT was the character of Edward IV.

A. He was brave, active, and enterprising, but severe, revengeful, and luxurious.

Q. What was the most memorable invention of this period?

A. The art of printing was discovered in Germany, and introduced into England by Caxton, in the year 1471.

Q. What strange event happened in his reign?

A. The death of the duke of Clarence, Edward's brother, whom he caused to be drowned in a butt of wine. The celebrated Jane Shore was mistress of this king.

Q. How long did he reign ?

A. He reigned twenty-two years, and died April 9th, 1463, aged forty-one years, leaving six children, viz., two sons and four daughters. The eldest, the Prince of Wales, succeeded him at thirteen years of age, as Edward V.

Q. What was the character of this prince ?

A. As he came to the throne so young, and was either murdered, or carried out of the kingdom, soon after his accession, his character cannot be known. Some say he was smothered in the Tower with his brother, the duke of York, in 1483.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Reign of Richard the Third.

Q. Who succeeded Edward the Fifth ?

A. Richard the Third, surnamed Crooked-back, duke of Gloucester. He was brother to Edward the Fourth, and appointed guardian to Edward the Fifth and his brother.

Q. How long did he reign ?

A. Two years ; he was proclaimed king of England the 20th of June, 1483, and was killed at the famous battle of Bosworth, in Leicestershire (26), contending for the kingdom with Henry, then earl of Richmond, August 24th, 1485.

Q. What was his character ?

A. He was the supposed murderer of his two nephews, and has generally been represented as a compound, both in mind and person, of cruelty and deformity. He, nevertheless, passed several excellent laws ; and as all the accounts given of him were written by his enemies, it is probable that many of the allegations against him are false and all exaggerated.

Q. What children had Richard ?

A. One son, who died before him ; and, according to some writers, another, who survived him, lived to a great age in obscurity. With Richard ended the line of York, or Plantagenet.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE LINE OF TUDOR.

Reign of Henry the Seventh.

Q. Who succeeded Richard the Third ?

A. Henry the seventh, earl of Richmond, who was crowned in Bosworth-field immediately after the battle. Henry was the son of Edmund Tudor, earl of Richmond, and of Margaret, a descendant from John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster. He, by marrying Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV., united the houses of York and Lancaster, and by that means put an end to the civil war.

Q. What discoveries were made in this reign ?

A. America was discovered by Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa* ; and a passage to the East Indies was discovered by the Portuguese.

Q. What rebellion happened in this reign ?

A. One by Lambert Simnel, which was speedily suppressed ; and a second more prolonged and dangerous, headed by Perkin Warbeck, who pretended to be the son of Edward the Fourth ; but the prudence and sagacity of Henry defeated these and every other plot against the government.

Q. How many children had Henry ?

A. Seven ; Arthur and Edmund, who died before him ; Henry, his successor ; and Margaret, Mary, Elizabeth and Katherine.

Q. How long did he reign ?

A. He reigned twenty-three years, and died at Richmond, (30) April 22, 1509, aged fifty-four.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Reign of Henry the Eighth.

Q. WHAT was the character of Henry VIII. ?

A. Henry was learned, but impetuous and vain, obstinate, despotic, and cruel.

*Genoa is a city in the north of Italy, and capital of a republic of the same name.

Q. Relate the most remarkable events in his reign.

A. The Reformation was begun; church registers were enacted to be kept; and the famous battle of Flodden Field (31) was fought, in which James the Fourth, King of Scotland, with the flower of his nobility, fell.

Q. Who were the wives of Henry the Eighth?

A. 1st. Catherine, who was his brother's widow, from whom he was divorced; 2nd. Anna Boleyn, who was falsely accused and beheaded; 3rd. Jane Seymour, who died in childbed; 4th. Anne of Cleves, whom he disliked and divorced; 5th. Catherine Howard, who was beheaded; 6th. Catherine Parr, who survived him.

Q. How many children had Henry the Eighth?

A. Three; Edward, the prince of Wales, by Lady Jane Seymour; this prince succeeded him; Mary his daughter by his first queen: and Elizabeth, daughter of Anna Boleyn.

Q. How long did the king reign?

A. Thirty-eight years; he died of a fever, Jan. 28th, 1547, in the fifty-sixth year of his age.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Of the Reformation.

Q. WHAT is meant by the Reformation?

A. By the Reformation is meant the reforming of the Christian religion from the errors of Popery, and reducing it nearer to its *primitive* purity.

Q. Who made the first attack on the extravagant superstitions then prevailing?

A. Martin Luther, a native of Isleben (32), in Germany.

Q. What was the religion called which was professed in England before the Reformation?

A. It was called the Roman Catholic; and it is curious that Henry, who was declared, by the Pope, "Defender

Primitive, a. original, first.

of the Faith," for writing a tract against Luther, should be the first king to throw off the Romish yoke.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Reign of Edward the Sixth.

Q. WHEN did Edward the Sixth come to the Crown, and what was his character?

A. He succeeded his father at the age of nine years and three months, A.D. 1547: he was a very amiable, learned and pious young man, and died July 6th, 1553, in the sixteenth year of his age. He left the crown to Lady Jane Grey, his cousin; she reigned only ten days, and was then deposed by Mary, Edward's sister.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Reign of Queen Mary.

Q. WHO was Queen Mary?

A. The daughter of Henry the Eighth. She was crowned October 1st, 1553.

Q. What was the character of Mary?

A. She was extremely *bigoted* to the Catholic religion; and was also proud, *imperious*, and austere.

Q. To whom was Mary married?

A. To Philip the second. King of Spain.

Q. What are the most remarkable events in the reign of Mary?

A. The *persecution* of the Protestants, great numbers of whom were burnt in Smithfield as heretics; amongst the most remarkable were archbishop Cranmer, and bishops Latimer, Hooper, and Ridley. Calais (26), the last of the English possessions in France, was lost in this reign.

Bigoted, part. foolishly attached to an opinion.

Imperious, a. overbearing, haughty, insolent.

Persecution, s. the act of pursuing with hatred enmity, &c.

Q. How long did Mary reign ?

A. About five years ; she died Nov. 17th, 1558, aged forty-two, and was succeeded by her sister Elizabeth

CHAPTER XXXV.

Reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Q. Who was Queen Elizabeth ?

A. The daughter of Henry the Eighth, by Anna Boleyn, and half-sister to Mary and Edward.

Q. What was her character ?

A. She was a woman of great spirit, judgment, and address ; she understood the *dead* and living languages, made great proficiency in the sciences, and was well read in history ; but the putting Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, to death, is a great stain on her character.

Q. Who was Mary, Queen of Scots ?

A. Daughter of James the Fifth, king of Scotland, and cousin of Elizabeth : she was famed for her beauty and misfortunes.

Q. How long was Mary prisoner in England ?

A. Eighteen years, and was at length beheaded at Fotheringay (33) castle, in Northamptonshire.

Q. What are the other principal events in the reign of Elizabeth ?

A. The destruction, in 1588, of the Spanish *armada* intended for the conquest of England, and, perhaps, the largest fleet ever fitted out by any nation ; the success of the Reformation, a most important event, which fixed the present religious establishment of the country ; and the discovery of Virginia in America.

Q. How long did Elizabeth reign ?

A. Queen Elizabeth reigned forty-four years ; she died

Dead language, a language not spoken in any country.

Armada, a fleet of men-of-war, but generally applied, by way of eminence, to the large one fitted out by the Spaniards, with the intention to conquer England as mentioned above

March 26th, 1603, aged seventy, and was succeeded by James the First of England, and Sixth of Scotland. England was prosperous at home and abroad during her reign.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

CROWNS OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND UNITED.

The Reign of James the First of England, and Sixth of Scotland.

Q. Who was James the First?

A. The great grandson of Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry the Seventh, who married James the Fourth of Scotland: he was son of the unfortunate Mary Stuart, queen of Scotland.

Q. Relate the principal events of this reign.

A. The gunpowder plot, and the beheading of the celebrated Sir Walter Raleigh.

Q. What was the gunpowder plot?

A. A scheme of the Roman Catholics, to blow up both houses of parliament, by laying a train of gunpowder under them, when the king, princes, lords and commons, should be assembled, Nov. 5, 1605.

Q. How did the conspirators cause the powder to be placed under the parliament house?

A. They had hired a cellar under the parliament house under pretence of using it as a storehouse for coals. Here they placed thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, which they covered with coals and faggots; and one Guy Faux, who was to set fire to the train, was taken in the cellar with a dark lantern, tinder-box, and matches in his pocket.

Q. In what manner was the plot discovered?

A. By an *anonymous* letter, sent, through private friendship, from one of the conspirators, to lord Monteagle, to prevent his going that day to parliament. and thus to avoid the dreadful *catastrophe*.

Anonymous, a. wanting a name.

Catastrophe, s. a dreadful event. or accident.

Q. Who was Sir Walter Raleigh?

A. A famous historian and *navigator*.

Q. How old was James, king of Scotland, when he succeeded to the English crown?

A. Thirty-six years; and he was twenty-two years king of England. He died A.D. 1625, aged fifty-eight. He was crowned king of Scotland, when only a year old.

Q. What was the general character of his reign?

A. Eminently tranquil and beneficial. The condition of the country was *relieved*, arts and sciences flourished. The Bible, as we have it now, was translated, and published under the royal authority.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Reign of Charles the First.

Q. Who was Charles the First?

A. The second son of James the First of England: he succeeded his father, March 27, 1625.

Q. What are the most striking events in the reign of Charles the First?

A. The civil wars between Charles and his parliament; the execution of lord Strafford and archbishop Laud; and afterwards that of the king himself; who was taken prisoner by the parliament, and at last beheaded, January 30, 1649.

Q. What discoveries and inventions were made in the reign of Charles the First?

A. *Barometers* and *Thermometers* were invented; newspapers were first published; the circulation of the blood was discovered; and coffee was brought to England.

Navigator, s. a seaman, one who conducts a ship:

Barometer, s. an instrument for measuring the weight of the air or atmosphere, in order to determine the changes of the weather. A weather glass. The word barometer comes from two Greek words, signifying *weight* and *measure*.

Thermometer, s. an instrument for measuring the degree of *heat* or *cold* of air, or any other body. It is derived from two Greek words, *heat* and *measure*.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

Q. WHEN was Oliver Cromwell chosen protector of England?

A. A.D. 1653, being four years and three months after the commencement of the Commonwealth; which had before been managed by parliament.

Q. How long was Cromwell protector?

A. Nearly five years; he died September 3, 1658; and was succeeded by his eldest son Richard, who retained the situation only three months.

Q. What was the character of Oliver Cromwell?

A. He was a man of great courage, ambition, and hypocrisy.

Q. What are the principal events of his time?

A. A war with the *Dutch*, who were defeated in several great sea-fights; and the conquest of *Jamaica*, which was made an English colony. The great poet Milton lived in the time of Cromwell, to whom he was Latin Secretary. Cromwell was a native of Huntingdon (36.)

CHAPTER XXXIX.

RESTORATION OF THE REGAL POWER

Reign of Charles the Second.

Q. Who was King Charles the Second?

A. The son of Charles the First, born May 29, 1630. On July 1, 1646, he went from Jersey (34) into France, he recovered the crown in May, 1660, when he arrived at Whitehall, and he entered London in triumph, as king, on his birth-day, the 29th of the same month.

Q. What are the principal events of his reign?

A. The great fire in London, 1666, and the plague the

Date of the inhabitants of Holland.

Jamaica, an island in the West Indies. It was discovered by Columbus.

year before. In this reign the Royal Society was established, and the Test-act passed.

Q. What men of genius flourished in this reign?

A. Shaftesbury, Boyle, Dryden, Otway, Butler, Hobbes, Temple, Walter, Cowley, Halley and Earl Clarendon.

Q. How long did Charles the Second reign?

A. He reigned twenty-four years, and died Feb. 6, 1685, in the 55th year of his age, and was succeeded by his brother James.

CHAPTER XL.

Reign of James the Second.

Q. WHAT was the character of James the second?

A. He was a bigot to the Romish religion, and fond of arbitrary power.

Q. What was the principal event of this reign?

A. The Duke of Monmouth's *rebellion*; he was proclaimed king at Taunton (35), but being afterwards taken prisoner, he was beheaded in London.

Q. Who was the duke of Monmouth?

A. A natural son of Charles the Second.

Q. What became of James the Second?

A. His attempts to restore the Roman Catholic religion and despotism obliged him to *abdicate* the throne; he reigned three years and nine months, and retired to France, where he died, A.D. 1701.

Q. How many children, who survived him, had James the second.

A. Three, James, Mary, and Anne.

CHAPTER XLI.

THE REVOLUTION.

William the Third and Mary the Second.

Q. Who was William the Third?

A. He was the son of William, Prince of Orange, and

Rebellion. s. opposition to lawful authority.

Abdicate, v. to resign, to give up.

of Henrietta Maria, daughter of Charles I. He was born at the Hague (37), in Holland, in 1650, and was married to Mary, the eldest daughter of James II.

Q. What was the character of this prince?

A. He was a great warrior, and a steady friend to the Protestant religion and civil liberty.

Q. What was the character of Mary?

A. Though her father was a devoted papist, she was a firm Protestant; she was an excellent wife, and a truly pious woman. Her person was very handsome; she died before William in 1694.

Q. Relate the principal events of this reign.

A. The Battle of the *Boyne*, in Ireland, where king James II. was defeated, was fought. The defeat of the French fleet at Cape *La Hogue* (38); and the establishment of the Bank of England.

Q. What great men shed lustre on this reign?

A. Newton, Locke, Tillotson, Prior and Burnet.

Q. Had William and Mary any children?

A. No; they were succeeded by Anne, second daughter of James II. who was married to prince George, brother to the king of Denmark.

CHAPTER XLII.

Reign of Queen Anne.

Q. WHAT is the character of queen Anne?

A. Queen Anne possessed many excellent qualities; her memory is cherished on account of her piety and unlimited charity.

Q. Relate the principal events of her reign.

A. The battles of *Blenheim* (39), *Ramillies* (40), and

Boyne. s. a river rising in the County of Kildare, in Ireland.

La Hogue. s. a cape near the town of La Hogue, in France.

Blenheim. s. a small village in Germany; hence is named the magnificent palace called *Blenheim-house*, near Woodstock Oxon, which was presented to the duke of Marlborough for his services; and in commemoration of the above victory.

Ramillies. s. a village in the Netherlands.

several others, won by the great duke of Marlborough: the defeat of the combined fleets of France and Spain, by Sir George Rooke; the capture of *Gibraltar* (41), and the union of England and Scotland, under the title of Great Britain, A.D. 1707.

Q. How many children had prince George of Denmark and Anne?

A. Six; but all died in their infancy. Queen Anne reigned twelve years and a half. She died A.D. 1714.

Q. Who were the most celebrated literary characters in her reign?

A. Pope, Swift, Congreve, Rowe, Prior, Phillips, Gay, Bolingbroke, Shaftesbury, Addison, Steele, &c.

CHAPTER XLIII.

LINE OF BRUNSWICK, OR HANOVER.

Reign of George the First.

Q. Who succeeded Anne?

A. George the First, A.D. 1714. He had been previously elector of Hanover (42), Brunswick and Lunenburg (43). He acquired the crown in right of his mother Sophia, who was the grand-daughter of James I., and the nearest Protestant heir. He was a good king, and an enemy to every species of tyranny.

Q. What are the principal events of this reign?

A. The rebellion of the Scots in favor of the son of James the Second, which was soon quelled, and the Pretender obliged to retire into France, 1717. The *electorate* of Hanover was annexed to the British Crown.

Q. Were there any others?

A. *Inoculation* was first introduced into England, and successfully tried upon two condemned criminals, who

Gibraltar, s. a town and Cape in the southern part of Spain.

Electorate, s. the territory or dominion of an elector.

Inoculation, s. (in medicine) the act of communicating the small *pox*, by means of inserting its matter into the veins of a person who has not had the distemper.

were pardoned on submitting to the operation, 1721. By the fraudulent South-sea scheme for buying up the debts of the nation, thousands of people were ruined.

Q. How old was the king at the time of his death ?

A. He was in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and thirteenth of his reign. He died in Osnaburgh, June 11, 1727.

CHAPTER XLIV.

Reign of George the Second.

Q. By whom was George the First succeeded ?

A. By his son, George the Second, who reigned from 1727, to October, 1760, when he died suddenly, aged seventy-seven.

Q. Relate the principal events of this reign.

A. The river Thames was frozen, and a fair held on it, 1740. The Scots again, in 1745, rebelled in favour of the Pretender, but were finally defeated at Culloden; Westminster bridge was built; admiral Anson circumnavigated the world, and took a Spanish ship, with treasure to an immense amount.

Q. Was it distinguished by any remarkable military events ?

A. The battles of Dettingen and Fontenoy were fought; an unsuccessful war on the continent terminated by the shameful peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748; our Indian Empire was formed, by the victories of Colonel Clive and other commanders; Quebec, with which all North America fell, was taken, and General Wolfe killed.

Q. How many children had George the Second ?

A. Seven; two sons and five daughters; the eldest son, Frederick, prince of Wales, died before his father, but left three children, the eldest of whom was George the Third.

Quebec, s. then the capital of Canada, in North America.

CHAPTER XLV.

Reign of George the Third.

Q. WHEN did George the Third succeed his grandfather on the Throne of England?

A. On the 25th of October, 1760, being then twenty-two years of age. He was married to Charlotte Sophia, Princess of Mecklenburg Strelitz*, and they were crowned the 20th of September, 1761.

Q. What important events occurred during the reign of George the Third?

A. A war was declared with America, through which that country eventually threw off its allegiance to Great Britain, and became independent in the year 1776; and war was declared against France, Spain, and Holland, 1778, and 1779.

Q. What dangerous riot took place in this reign?

A. A dangerous riot was excited in London, A. D. 1780, on account of some concessions that were made to the Roman Catholics.

Q. What were the principal glories of this reign?

A. A brilliant series of naval victories obtained by lords Hood, Howe, St. Vincent, Duncan, and Nelson. The union of England and Ireland, A.D. 1801, and the abolition of the slave-trade, during the administration of Mr. Fox, A.D. 1807.

Q. What gave rise to the war with America?

A. The levying of certain duties, to be payable by the American colonies in aid of the public revenue, which being resisted, measures were resorted to, which occasioned an open defiance, on the part of that country, to the legislation of the British government.

Q. When did the revolution take place in France?

* Mecklenburg is a duchy in the north part of Lower Saxony. This house is divided between two lines; namely. Schwerin and Strelitz.

A. It commenced in 1789, and the regal government being subverted, France exhibited for a long time, scenes of bloodshed, *rapine*, and misery, under the delusive idea of civil liberty. The king, Louis XVI., with the queen, a great number of the nobility, and innumerable other persons of every rank, were sacrificed to the resentment and *caprice* of the various factions which successively acquired the ascendant.

Q. Was England engaged in war at this time?

A. Yes; in the East Indies, conducted by Earl Cornwallis against Tippo Saib, who was at last compelled to conclude a peace, and to deliver up his two sons as *hostages* for the due performance of its conditions.

Q. Was the tranquillity of this country disturbed by the French revolution?

A. Yes; after the death of the king of France, England and Holland engaged in war with that country; Austria and Prussia, being alarmed at the principles *disseminated* by the French, had previously declared war against France in their own defence.

Q. What ensued from the early events of this war?

A. The continental wars having been defeated, and their kingdoms overrun by the French, they were obliged to make peace, and Great Britain was for some time left to contend alone with France.

Q. Who was at the head of the French Government at this period?

A. After that country had suffered under the despotism of several factions, a form of government was at length settled, consisting of three *consuls*, whereof the first as

Rapine. s. plunder, the act of taking away the goods of another by violence.

Caprice, s. (*ka-presse*) a whim, fancy.

Hostage. s. a person given up as a pledge for the performance of a condition.

Disseminated, *part.* dispersed, spread abroad.

Consul. s. a chief magistrate.

chief, was Napoleon Bonaparte, a Corsican by birth, and a general in the French service, who afterwards altered the government, and caused himself to be declared emperor of France.

Q. Were there not some important victories gained about this period?

A. Yes; in Egypt, where the French had sent an expedition to subdue that country, under their general, Bonaparte. The fleet was attacked, in the bay of Aboukir, in Egypt, by admiral lord Nelson, who completely defeated them, with great loss both of ships and men. This memorable action was called the victory of the Nile.* The French army was also beaten by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who lost his life in the moment of victory. These great events at length obliged the enemy to abandon their views on Egypt.

Q. When was the war between England and France brought to a conclusion?

A. In the year 1802, by the treaty of Amiens; but peace was of short duration, for the restless ambition of the French ruler led to new disputes between the two governments, and war was resumed the following year.

Q. Were any great naval advantages gained by this country soon after the renewal of the war?

A. Yes; the ever-memorable battle of Trafalgar (46), in which the undaunted hero, admiral lord Nelson, achieved a splendid victory, but unhappily for his country, was himself slain. In testimony of grateful respect, his remains were honoured with a public and splendid funeral in St. Paul's Church; and his death was deplored as a national calamity.

Q. Was England solicited by Portugal and Spain to assist in defending those countries from the aggressions of the French?

* Nile, s. a celebrated river in Egypt.

Corsican. s. from Corsica, an island in the Mediterranean sea, belonging to France.

A. Yes ; and a large military force was sent over to them under the command of Sir Arthur Wellesley,* whose important services delivered Portugal from the enemy, and whose subsequent achievements and victories at Almeida (47), Albuera [48], Talavera [49], Salamanca [50], and Vittoria [51], in Spain, were principally instrumental in obliging the French to evacuate that country likewise.

Q. Did the British general follow up his victories ?

A. Yes ; he pursued his enemies over the *Pyrennees* into France, and finally defeated them at Toulouse, while the allies were marching towards Paris from the other side of France.

Q. What remarkable event occurred in the year 1807 ?

A. The British government having obtained information that the Danish fleet was to be placed under the control of France, a British fleet under admiral Gambier, and a land force under lord Cathcart, were sent to Copenhagen [52], and on the 7th September, 1807, they obliged the Danes to deliver up, by *capitulation*, their whole fleet, consisting of eighteen ships of the line, fifteen frigates, six small vessels and twenty-five gun-boats, together with all the stores.

Q. What was the most remarkable event of the year 1812 ?

A. The assassination of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, Prime Minister of England, by a man named Bellingham.

Q. Where did this occur ?

A. As Mr. Perceval was entering the lobby of the House of Commons, he was shot in the breast : and, after advancing two or three paces, he exclaimed, " Oh ! I am murdered !" and fell on his face.

*Late Duke of Wellington.

Pyrennees. s. a range of mountains between France and Spain.
Capitulation. s. the surrender of a place upon certain conditions.

Q. What became of the murderer ?

A. He was tried for the offence, found guilty, and executed.

Q. Were there not some very important events on the Continent, affecting the welfare of England, brought about by the French ruler ?

A. The French power having prevailed in reducing Austria, Prussia, Russia, Holland, Switzerland, and the Italian States, to a state of humiliation, those countries were compelled to make peace with France, and to submit to the condition of resisting the introduction of English goods into any of their respective ports, with the view of ruining the commerce of this kingdom.

Q. Did not the state of things lead to some consequences prejudicial to the French arms ?

A. The shutting up of the Continent from English commerce having been enforced by the most *arbitrary* and oppressive conduct on the part of the French government, it was found intolerable ; Russia, therefore, abandoned her alliance with France ; and this rupture induced the French to invade the Russian dominions with a force of nearly 300,000 men.

Q. How did the French succeed in the Russian invasion ?

A. They reached the city of Moscow (53), which was burnt, and Buonaparte was compelled to commence a retreat in the depth of winter. Harassed by the Russians on every side, his army was not only defeated, but almost *annihilated*, by sickness, and various calamities.

Q. What other events occurred on the Continent, favorable to the welfare of England ?

A. The disastrous termination of the French expedition of Russia gave an opportunity for Austria and Prussia to

Prejudicial, *a.* injurious. hurtful.

Arbitrary, *a.* absolute, positive.

Annihilated. *part.* destroyed.

abandon their connection with France, and enter into an alliance with Russia.

Q. What was the consequence?

A. To counteract this, Buonaparte, the following year, 1813, collected a powerful army in Saxony; and, having been attacked by the allied powers, and defeated at the tremendous battle of Leipsic (54), he was compelled to retreat to France, pursued by the united forces of his enemies, who, in their turn, invaded and penetrated into the very heart of France.

Q. To what important events did the *prowess* of Great Britain and her allies more immediately lead?

A. The overthrow of Buonaparte, who having abdicated the throne which he had usurped, was allowed to retire to the island of Elba, (55), in the Mediterranean sea, the sovereignty of which island he accepted in lieu of his former extensive dominions. Louis XVIII. was placed on the throne of his *ancestors*, and a treaty of peace signed by all the *belligerent* powers.

Q. What part did England take in this cause?

A. England, after sustaining the burden of a continued war of more than twenty years, was still ready to assist and *animate* her allies on every occasion, and put forth her strength with undiminished *ardour*. England was uniform, persevering, undaunted, and undismayed in a contest of unexampled difficulty.

Q. What was the state of Europe after the peace of Paris?

A. A general congress was held at Vienna (56), by the

Prowess, s. bravery, military courage.

Ancestors, s. forefathers.

Belligerents s. (*bel-lidge-a-rant*) carrying on war, engaging in war.

Animate, v. to enliven, to stir up.

Ardour, s. zeal, warmth.

Congress, s. meeting, assembly.

principal sovereigns of Europe, for the purpose of establishing a balance of power*, and securing the tranquility of the Continent. Their deliberations were at first attended with success, and seemed to *prognosticate* a happy termination of their labours; when the escape of Buonaparte from Elba obliged them once more to lead their armies to the field of battle.

Q. When did Napoleon Buonaparte make his escape, and what was his success.

A. He landed on the coast of France in March, 1815; and having been joined by the greater part of those officers who owed their elevation to his favour, and by that army which had been so long accustomed to serve him, he marched without opposition to Paris, and again seated himself on the French throne, Louis having retired to Ghent.

Q. How did the allied sovereigns determine to act?

A. No sooner was the news of this event communicated to the allied sovereigns, assembled at Vienna, than, with an unanimous voice, they resolved to support the cause of the French monarch, and to hurl the usurper from his throne.

Q. What was the result of their endeavours?

A. Both sides prepared with great energy to take the field, and Buonaparte, in hopes of overthrowing the British and Prussians before the other allies could assemble their forces, led a very powerful army into Belgium. After defeating the Prussians an action commenced in the neighbourhood of Charleroi (57), on the 16th of June, which seemed at first to promise success to Napoleon; but nothing was able to withstand the courage of the brave English under the Duke of Wellington, who, after a most obstinate battle on the 18th, gained a complete victory at Waterloo (58).

* *Balance of power.* an equality of power so that one state should not infringe upon the rights of another.

Q. What were the numbers of the respective armies on this occasion?

A. Buonaparte's army amounted to about one hundred and fifty thousand men, of whom twenty-five thousand were *cavalry*, and mostly experienced troops. The Prussian general, Blücher, commanded about one hundred thousand men; and the Duke of Wellington about seventy thousand.

Q. What was the event of this battle?

A. The French were beaten by the British before the Prussians came up; the latter followed the retreating French and committed great havoc among them. At the close of the day, about forty thousand men, the whole remains of the French army, effected their escape, leaving behind them one hundred and fifty pieces of canon and their ammunition.

Q. What was the loss of the British army?

A. Generals Sir Thomas Picton and Sir W. Ponsonby and four colonels were killed; nine generals, five colonels, and a number of inferior officers were wounded; and the killed, wounded, and missing of non-commissioned officers and privates, British and Hanoverians, amounted to nearly thirteen thousand.

Q. What was the consequence of this victory?

A. The military power of France being annihilated nothing could oppose the progress of the British and Prussian forces, who made themselves masters of the French metropolis, and ended the campaign, and with it the war, in less than fourteen days.

Q. What became of Buonaparte?

A. The French royal family was restored, and Buonaparte, having in vain attempted to make his escape, delivered himself up to the English. He was conveyed to our coast in the *Bellerophon*, and remained off Plymouth for

Cavalry, s, horse soldiers.

ten days till at length it was determined to send him to the island of St. Helena, as a place of security.

Q. What was the final close of Buonaparte's career ?

A. He died at St. Helena, of a cancer in his stomach, on the 5th of May, 1821.

Q. Were there not some afflicting circumstances in regard to the King's health ?

A. Yes ; in the year 1788, the king was attacked by temporary privation of reason, but happily recovered in the following year. The *malady*, however, returned in 1810, and he was not afterwards able to exercise the duties of his high station ; in consequence of which, the prince of Wales, who was the heir apparent* to the crown, governed the kingdom under the title of Regent.

Q. Did not Great Britain signalize herself by the chastisement of the Algerines ?

A. Yes ; many atrocities having been committed by the Algerines, in their piratical attacks on the ships of almost every European nation, and their barbarity to the unhappy victims who fell into their hands, the English government equipped a fleet under the command of Lord Exmouth, in the year 1816, to compel them to abandon their inhuman practices.

Q. How did he succeed ?

A. In the first instance, willing to effect his object by treaty, for the sake of humanity, he entered into a negotiation with the *Dey*, and received his assurances, that every satisfaction should be rendered to those nations and indi-

* *Heir apparent*: is he on whom the succession is so settled that it cannot be altered but by death, or by altering the laws of succession—the *heir presumptive* is one whose succession, unless by the birth of a direct heir, cannot be set aside.

Malady, s. a disease, an illness.

Dey, s. the sovereign prince of Algiers, as the Bey is of Tunis.

viduals who had suffered from their merciless depredations.

Q. Was the treaty observed ?

A. No ; British forbearance only served to increase the insolence of the pirates ; and his Lordship had scarcely reached England before he received orders from government to return, and satisfy the vengeance of insulted Europe.

Q. Did Lord Exmouth succeed ?

A. Yes ; on the 27th of August, in conjunction with a small Dutch squadron, he commenced a *bombardment* on the city, and port of Algiers (62), destroying two-thirds of their city, their whole navy, and nearly all their *forts* and *arsenals*. It was a tremendous conflict ; the Algerines lost nearly 7000 men in killed and wounded ; and the British and Dutch, 833.

Q. What advantages did he gain by this attack ?

A. The entire submission of the Dey to the terms proposed to him ; namely, the abolition, for ever, of Christian slavery ; the delivery of all Christian slaves in his dominions ; and reparation for all losses sustained by those European powers who had been more particularly the object of barbarian aggression.

Q. What was the internal state of Great Britain at this period ?

A. The sudden change from a state of war to that of peace, did not, at the same time, bring with it the blessings of repose ; but, on the contrary, our commercial and manufacturing interests were seriously affected by it, and the want of sufficient employment pressed heavily on the lower orders of the people.

Q. Was not the public mind much agitated by

Bombardment, s. an attack made upon a city, by throwing bombs into it.

Fort, s. a fortified place or a place of defence.

Arsenal, s. a magazine, a place wherein all warlike stores are kept

numerous meetings of the populace which took place in various parts of the country ?

A. Yes ; under pretence of petitioning the legislature for reform of parliament, immense multitudes assembled in London and other large towns, and the inflammatory speeches, which were there delivered, excited the turbulent part of the populace to acts of violence.

Q. At what places did this spirit of insubordination chiefly manifest itself.

A. In London, Manchester, Derby, &c. ; in consequence of which the parliament passed a bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus* Act, and some of the most active ringleaders were apprehended under warrants from the Secretary of State.

Q. What was the consequence ?

A. Several were tried on charges of High Treason, and acquitted ; others were found guilty and executed ; while the greater part, after having been confined for a considerable length of time, were liberated, and the Suspension Bill was repealed.

Q. What tragical event in the history of the country took place in 1817 ?

A. The death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales. On the 5th of November, this accomplished and amiable Princess died, after having given birth to a still-born son.

Q. How did the public feel on this melancholy occasion ?

A. So unexpected and calamitous an event, happening at a moment when the whole nation was elated with the prospect of having an heir to the throne, the offspring of their beloved princess, filled the heart of every one with unexampled grief.

Q. Was not her funeral observed with great solemnity ?

*The writ of *Habeas Corpus* is the great barrier against arbitrary imprisonment, as by it a prisoner may compel the courts of law to show a cause why he should not be set at liberty.

A. Yes; never was grief more sincere, or the expression of it more respectful. The day of her funeral was observed in every part of the empire as one of general mourning and humiliation; and the sorrow that pervaded every heart on this occasion, affords an undeniable testimony of the high estimation in which her virtues were held.

Q. To what events did the lamented death of the Princess Charlotte give rise?

A. Her death having interrupted the direct line of succession to the throne, her unmarried uncles sought such alliances as their own rank and the interests of the kingdom demanded.

Q. What marriages took place in consequence?

A. The Duke of Cambridge was married in April, 1818, to the Princess of Hesse Cassel; in the July following the Duke of Clarence wedded the Princess of Saxe Meiningen; and on the same day the Duke of Kent was united to Victoria Maria Louisa, the daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Saelfeld-Coburg, and widow of the prince of Leiningen. The Princess Elizabeth was also married to the Prince of Hambourg*.

Q. What important political transaction distinguished the year 1818?

A. The first that demands notice is the general election which took place throughout the United Kingdom, and which, as is usual, occupied the attention of all classes.

Q. Did not a meeting of those sovereigns with whom England had lately been in alliance take place about the same time?

A. Yes; peace having been fully established in Europe, a meeting of the allied sovereigns was held at Aix-la-Chapelle, where it was agreed that the troops

*Hesse Hombourg, Hesse Cassel, Leiningen, and Saxe Meiningen, are small German principalities, unequal in point of extent and value, to the estates of some of our English nobility: but by the laws of England, no members of the Royal Family are permitted to espouse a subject, or any foreigner who is not a Protestant.

left in France, for the purpose of giving stability to the monarchical power, were now no longer necessary, and they were accordingly recalled.

Q. What occurred in India at this period?

A. A very numerous body of the natives, called Pindarees, having resisted the British power in that extensive empire, the Marquess of Hastings, the governor, undertook a vigorous campaign against them, and ultimately reduced them to obedience, thus adding considerably to the British possessions.

Q. What illustrious person died during this year?

A. Queen Charlotte, who expired at Kew, on the 17th of November, 1818, aged seventy-five, having been married to his Majesty fifty seven years.

Q. What events of a political nature took place in England in the year 1819?

A. The country was in a state of considerable agitation from the large and numerous meetings of the populace, who were styled Radical Reformers. One of the meetings at length terminated very fatally at Manchester.

Q. Relate the circumstances attending it?

A. On the 16th of August an immense multitude of persons assembled at Manchester, with banners indicative of their principles, headed by Mr. Hunt, a person who had made himself notorious at similar meetings on former occasions. The magistracy, considering such an assemblage likely to proceed to violence, had called to the aid of the civil power two regiments of yeomanry and some regular troops; a party of the former being ordered to assist in securing the leaders, and to disperse the people, a scene of terror and confusion ensued, whereby some persons lost their lives, and many were seriously wounded.

Q. To what did this lead?

A. The government thought it expedient to prevent such meetings of the people in future, unless they were convened by persons in authority; and for that and other purposes, restrictive acts were passed, not, however, without considerable opposition from those members who advocated the cause of parliamentary reform.

Q. Was not the commencement of the year 1820 rendered remarkable in a melancholy manner by the death of two illustrious persons?

A. Yes; on the 23d of January the Duke of Kent expired at his cottage at Sidmouth, in Devonshire, from inflammation brought on by cold. His royal highness, who was sincerely lamented, left an infant daughter, Alexandrina Victoria, (her present Majesty) whose birth on the 24th of May, 1819, had been a source of the greatest delight to him.

Q. Who was the other illustrious person who died at this period?

A. His venerable Majesty George the Third, who expired on the 29th of January, 1820, in the 60th year of his reign, and the 82d of his age. The long and severe malady that this just and amiable monarch had endured, had prepared his affectionate subjects for the melancholy event; but though long expected, his death was sincerely lamented.

Q. Was not his reign signalized by many important discoveries, inventions, and improvements?

A. Yes; by the discovery of various islands and countries in different parts of the world; by the introduction of vaccination*, as a protection against the small-pox; by the use of gas for the purpose of lighting our streets, churches, manufactories, and shops; by the employment of steam for the purpose of propelling ships at sea and various machines on

**Vaccination*. inoculation for the cow-pox, a disease to which the heels of cows are subject. This disease, mild and safe in its action, is a protection against the small-pox. It was originally imparted to the human frame, by the insertion, beneath the skin, of matter, from the diseased heel of a cow; but it is now generally transferred from one human subject to another.

land; also, by numerous improvements in *chemistry* and other sciences.

Q. Was not George the Third celebrated likewise for the encouragement which he gave the arts of painting and sculpture?

A. Yes; it was under his auspices that the Royal Academy for Painting was founded at Somerset House.

Q. What great artists flourished in this reign?

A. In painting, West, Romney, Louthembourg, Barry, Fuseli, Beechy, Opie, Wilson, Gainsborough, Shee, Sir Thomas Lawrence, &c.; and in sculpture, Flaxman, Nollekens, Bacon, Chantrey, Westmacott, &c.

CHAPTER XLVI.

Reign of George the Fourth.

Q. By whom was George the Third succeeded?

A. By his eldest son George, Prince of Wales, at that time Regent of the kingdom; who on Monday the 31st of January, was publicly proclaimed in London and Westminster.

Q. What remarkable event occurred soon after the king's accession?

A. The discovery that a number of obscure and wretched individuals had treasonably associated together, and had arranged a most ferocious plan to assassinate the whole of his Majesty's Ministers, while assembled at a cabinet dinner at the earl of Harrowby's house.

Q. Where were they arrested?

A. A party of police officers, under the direction of Mr Birnie, the magistrate, and a company of the foot-guards, commanded by Captain Fitzclarence, were directed to repair to their place of meeting, in a stable in Cato Street; and they succeeded in securing several, though in the scuffle

Chemistry, or Chymistry is the art of separating natural bodies by fire.

one of the police officers, named Smithers, was killed by Arthur Thistlewood, the chief conspirator.

Q. By what other occurrences was the year distinguished?

A. By a general election throughout the United Kingdom, and by the trials of Mr. Hunt and others, at York, on a charge of attending, &c, the meeting at Manchester, (which had been decreed an illegal one), and of Sir Francis Burdett, at Leicester, for writing a letter on that occasion reflecting on the conduct of Government. In both instances the defendants were found guilty and imprisoned. Also by the trials and conviction of the Cato-Street conspirators.

Q. What other event of importance occurred during the year 1820?

A. On the 6th of June, Her Majesty Queen Caroline who had for several years been residing abroad, and who in her absence had been accused of improper conduct, arrived at Dover, to meet the charge which had been made against her.

Q. To what did her arrival lead?

A. To her public trial by the peers of the realm, in the House of Lords, where she appeared personally; and although there was a small majority of votes against her, the Government deemed it advisable to drop the proceedings, and allow her £50,000 per annum, to support the dignity of her station.

Q. What was the next event of public interest?

A. The coronation of His Majesty George the Fourth in Westminster Abbey, on the 19th of July, 1821.

Q. What event followed the coronation?

A. His Majesty's visit to Ireland, whither he went on the 31st of July.

Q. What occurred in London, during the King's absence?

A. The death of the queen, on the 7th of August, after an illness of only eight days. Her remains were taken to Brunswick, to be interred in the family vault;

but the funeral procession having been ordered by the government not to pass through the city of London, and the populace being resolved that it should go by no other route, serious disturbances took place, and two men were shot by the military.

Q. What were the next memorable events ?

A. The king's return from Ireland, and subsequent visit to Hanover ; and his visit in the summer of 1822, to Scotland.

Q. What celebrated Statesman died at this period ?

A. The Marquis of Londonderry, who in a fit of insanity terminated his existence.

Q. What celebrated English poet died in 1824, and in what cause was he engaged ?

A. George, Lord Byron, while assisting the Greeks against their Turkish oppressors.

Q. What celebrated men died in the year 1827 ?

A. Frederick, Duke of York, Heir Presumptive, to the throne ; the Right Hon. George Canning Prime Minister of Great Britain ; Dr. Pelham, Bishop of Lincoln ; and Dr. Tomline, Bishop of Winchester.

Q. What political changes occurred at this period ?

A. The Earl of Liverpool being *incapacitated*, by a fit of apoplexy, from attending to his public duties, was succeeded by the Hon. George Canning, as Prime Minister.

Q. How long did Mr. Canning hold office ?

A. Only until the 8th of August following, the fatigues and difficulties he had to contend with having aggravated a disease he had already neglected. he expired on that day.

Q. Who succeeded him as Prime Minister ?

A. Lord Goderich, formerly Mr. Robinson.

Q. What remarkable naval event occurred in the year 1827 ?

A. The Turkish government having refused to adopt *pacific* measures respecting its Greek subjects, a serious

Incapacitated, v. to be disabled, rendered incapable.
Pacific, a. mild, gentle, appeasing.

misunderstanding arose ; and a combined fleet of English, French, and Russian ships encountered the Turkish fleet in the harbour of Navarino, and a furious battle ensued, in which the Turks were completely defeated.

Q. What was the state of affairs in 1828 ?

A. The Duke of Wellington, with a new ministry, succeeded Lord Goderich, and repealed the Test and Corporation Acts.

Q. What remarkable characters died in the year 1828 ?

A. Dr. John, Archbishop of Canterbury, having filled that high station twenty-three years ; and the Earl of Liverpool, many years Prime Minister of England.

Q. What were the events of 1829 ?

A. The passing of the act, on the 13th April, admitting the Roman Catholics to the fullest political privileges.

Q. When did the death of George the Fourth occur ?

A. On the 26th of June, 1830, after a reign principally remarked for the long-continued peace, and for the great architectural improvements made in the capital.

CHAPTER XLVII.

Reign of William the Fourth.

Q. By whom was George the Fourth succeeded ?

A. By his brother the Duke of Clarence, who ascended the throne as William the Fourth.

Q. What were the chief events of the early part of his reign ?

A. The great political excitement caused by the agitation of the question of the Reform of the Commons' House of Parliament.

Q. What was the progress of that question ?

A. On the assembling of the Parliament, the Duke of Wellington, as Prime Minister, declared his determination not to advocate the measure in any shape ; and a new administration, with Earl Grey at its head, was formed in Nov. 1830. On the 18th of March following, Lord John Russell presented a bill in the house of Commons for a very extensive alteration of the representation ; but it was carried after much severe debating, by a majority of one only, and on

the 22d of April the parliament was dissolved. The bill was again introduced on the re-assembling of the Parliament in June, and was carried up to the house of Lords by a majority of 123, on the 21st September, whence it was rejected by a majority of 41.

Q. What was the result of this rejection?

A. The greatest political excitement all over the country which manifested itself in the formation of associations and the assemblage of large multitudes to agitate the question.

Q. How did the Parliament proceed?

A. In December it re-assembled, and the Reform bill somewhat modified, was again introduced into the Commons' house, which, after a protracted debate, was sent to the upper house; where, after a most animated discussion, it was passed, several Lords withdrawing, in consequence of His Majesty's express declaration that he would create Peers to carry the measure, if opposition was persisted in. The royal assent was given to this, certainly the most important act since the settlement of the Crown in 1668, on the 7th of June, 1832.

Q. What were the other measures of the session?

A. Reform Acts applying to Ireland and Scotland, which passed with little opposition.

Q. What were the other important events in this reign?

A. The renewal of the Charters of the Bank and East India Company; the total Abolition of Slavery from the 1st of August 1834, in the British Dominions; and the bill for the amendment of the Poor Law; the renewal of the Irish Coercion bill, in consequence of the tumultuous state of that country.

Q. What were the changes in the ministry?

In Nov. 1834, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Althorp, was removed to the House of Peers by the death of his father, Earl Spencer, and the ministry was broken up, Earl Grey, having previously retired, and having been succeeded by Lord Melbourne as Prime Minister. A new ministry was now formed under Sir Robert Peel, which, after great struggles in the house of Commons, gave way to the Melbourne ministry, who again came into office, and continued to the close of this reign.

Q. What other events occurred ?

A. The death of the king, on the 20th of June 1837, after a painful illness, which he bore with the most christian fortitude.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

Reign of Queen Victoria.

Q. By whom was William the Fourth succeeded ?

A. By Her present Majesty, Victoria, daughter of the Duke of Kent, fourth son of George Third, who ascended the throne in her 19th year, amidst the enthusiastic wishes and expectations of all classes.

Q. What events of importance have taken place in Her Majesty's personal history.

A. On the 10th of February, 1840, Her Majesty was married to His Royal Highness Prince Albert, of the ancient and illustrious House of Saxe Cobourg Gotha; on the 21st of November of the same year, the Princess Royal was born; on the 9th of November 1841, the Prince of Wales. (who is Heir Apparent to the throne) was born, and on the 25th of April, 1843, Her Majesty gave birth to another daughter, the Princess Alice Maud Mary.

Q. What public events worthy of notice, have occurred up to the present period ?

A. The summoning a new Parliament in July 1841, the accession to office, a few months subsequently, of Sir Robert Peel, and the Conservatives, the treaty of peace between England and China, in August 1842; the successful close of the war in Afghanistan, in the following month; the adoption the same year of the Ashburton Treaty between England and the United States; and the brilliant success of Major General Sir Charles Napier, in February 1843, against the hostile Beloochees.

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